

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An outboard motor comprising:  
an outboard motor main body accommodating therein an engine;  
a throttle operating unit for operating an opening of a throttle valve to control a volume of intake air to the engine, the throttle operating unit being positioned away from said outboard motor main body in a hull;  
a throttle wire for mechanically transmitting an operating input of the throttle operating unit to the throttle valve of the engine so as to drive said throttle valve to be opened and closed;  
an electric air control valve for increasing and decreasing the volume of intake air to said engine via a separate system from said throttle valve; and  
a control unit including an actuator for controlling the opening and closing of said air control valve, and an engine speed operating unit for directly inputting an air increase or decrease signal inputted by a user into said control unit.

Claim 2 (original): An outboard motor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said engine speed operating unit is a push switch for outputting an air increase or decrease signal through a pushing operation.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~An outboard motor as set forth in Claim 1,~~ An outboard motor comprising:

an outboard motor main body accommodating therein an engine;

a throttle operating unit for operating an opening of a throttle valve to control a volume of intake air to the engine, the throttle operating unit being positioned away from said outboard motor main body in a hull;



